

# WORKERS of the WORLD UNITE THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST

No. 256

With which is incorporated  
The International Socialist Review for Australasia.

SYDNEY: MARCH 20, 1915.

Registered at the General Post Office, Sydney,  
for transmission by post as a Newspaper. PRICE, ONE PENNY

## The Passim.

Peace has been proclaimed between the Northern coal miners and the masters for the time being.

The Socialist says: there can be no lasting peace while the product of labor is divided between the workers and others.

The Socialist party is the only party in England that says: "Don't shoot and kill" and means it.

The present system tends inevitably to war. A right to international supremacy in the interests of a right with arms because that is the foundation between nations.

Capitalism means the war of nations for commercial supremacy. It is the old war of conquest and plunder in modern dress.

Capitalist nations bid the workers of their products and then fight for markets to sell them in.

When capitalism is destroyed and we produce for use instead of profit, no co-operative commonwealth will take the place of competition and there will be no more wars.

A capitalism and slaughter or Socialism and peace? Which do you prefer?

The European slaughter is a fearful price for the world to pay for its cosson. But after all it seems the only way the people are able to fight it. When it is all over, the cosson will be the worst of the cost. Certainly all the slaughter will not be in vain. Socialists who are and ever have been set against war will find it less difficult after this war is over to open the eyes of the people to the cause of war, and to enlist them in only war that civilized beings should engage in, and that is the war against the system that breeds war.

A Turkish soldier's pay is said to be 7d. a month, and is usually three years in arrears. Mugs are cheap in Turkey.

"Matters are fairly quiet in China. There have been many executions." "The Times." The quiet before the storm.

Alfred Deakin, ex Prime Minister of the Commonwealth, has arrived in America as Australia's representative at the Panama Exposition. American papers are referring to Deakin as "President Deakin," a fact which, simply demonstrates that Alfred still adheres to his old-time advertising methods. In "Lord Carmichael" and "President Deakin" Australia is in possession of a couple of fairly successful hoarders.

"Fathers Egan, of Gosford, and Mr. Audiffe, of Newcastle, are leaving today by the Sanama on a 12 months' tour abroad." A sample of two columns of pars in "Sydney Morning Herald's" Saturday church news, showing that capitalism pays its preachers with holiday trips while its producers are pulverised in its profit mills.

A commission has been inquiring into rumours of Ministerial corruption in connection with the seizure of wheat by the N.S. Wales Government. Ministers denied the charges of corruption, and the Commission is making a report. When we get that we may be able to see how there came to be so much smoke about.

In this era of Royal Commissions of inquiry into rumours of corruption, some member of the New South Wales Parliament might move for an inquiry into the doings of Magistrate Barnett, the discrimination shown in the free speech cases against Socialists, and the blackmailing of women of the unfortunate class by the pretended upholders of law and order.

The majority generally consists of people who blindly follow leaders and do not think for themselves. Thinkers are, as a rule, in the minority, and are firmly and boldly discouraged from thinking and communicating their thoughts to others.



The pale pathetic peoples still plod on through hoodwinkings to light. Thomas Hardy.

The resignation of Carmichael from the N.S. Wales Labor Ministry has afforded a fine opportunity for a restful life of the politician's position. Carmichael's tenure in the Works Department, where his administration had become notorious and objectionable, leaves for Mr. Carmichael's Department, where he will start life afresh in an unknown land as it were. Carmichael, who as Chief Secretary, thoroughly believed that the police should be the keepers of the people's ideas, and that they should carefully discriminate between Socialists and religious speakers, is leaving his job for another. Other Ministers are moving, and the mugs, having short memories, will forget where they were before and what they did. So the game goes on.

"Every man for himself and the devil take the hindmost," is a true old saying, but the "old man" seems to be operating on a lot of the front now.

"This war is turning us all into Socialists." Jerome K. Jerome.

"Lloyd's Weekly News," slogging the Germans recently, described them as "archists." In the same issue there was even columns of description of the European murder case and other criminal trials. When we see such stuff served up for Sunday reading, we may readily conjecture that the British press hasn't a very exalted opinion of the national intelligence.

The war has the effect of increasing literary and intellectual dishonesty to a vast extent. In Britain many writers of distinction are professing to have discovered that the world really owes nothing to German culture. Kurt, Goethe, Beethoven, Handel, Wagner, Haecel, and many others are now said to be unworthy of admiration. What a change!

The London County Council's Education Committee states that Andersen's Fairy Tales and Robinson Crusoe hold the two first places in the affections of the young people of London. In poetry, Shakespeare, Tennyson, Wordsworth and Scott are favorites. This seems significant when we consider that thousands are spent to push the Bible.

Even the German language is now tilted at. The "Daily Mail" recently revived a saying of Grant Allen's to the effect that one of his books had been "translated into every civilized language, and into German." Another paper quotes Mark Twain's joke that he could not understand a German saying his prayers, for not even God could understand such a language.

Mr. Dan Crawford, the African Mis-

sonary, has been saying that Australians are going to thank God for the break-up of the present drought, but are afraid to go on. We are at a loss to understand why they should be afraid unless it may be that some subsequent floods would have to be accounted for.

"The Messiah at the Albert Hall" was a headline in a London paper a few weeks ago. From this it might be thought he had left the front, where some 20 millions of his followers are having a little family party.

The well-to-do of Britain have established a home of rest for aged and worn-out horses, ponies, and donkeys at Cricklewood. The animals were given a banquet on New Year's Day, the menu consisting of carrots, apples, biscuits, and sugar. Many a young Briton on hearing of the banquet would regret not having been born a donkey.

Mary Carroll has published a song entitled "The Voice of the Cathedral." It ought to be a chamber song if it is a true voice. Many a good stanza has been induced by the voice of the cathedral.

The publishers are turning the romances loose upon the Germans. William Lequeux, Max Pemberton, and H. G. Wells are writing accounts of the European war for publication. In the meantime the daily paper writers they will have to produce something startling.

Father Nicholas, Provincial of the Marist Order of Australasia, in an interview in Sydney "Sun" (7.3.15) said it was fortunate that slaves was murdered, when he was, otherwise he might have prevented the war and provoked a revolution in France and Germany instead. He considered the murder a blessing in disguise. If a prominent Socialist had said that the murder of the Austrian Arch-Duke by the Serbians was a blessing in disguise inasmuch as it had provoked war, he would probably have been scolded by scores of press writers. The religious person seems specially licensed to say blood-thirsty and barbarous things in print.

The war will soon cost Britain two millions a day. The total cost to all countries engaged is about seven millions a day, and most of this vast expenditure is used for purely destructive work. The Panama Canal, one of the wonders of the world, represents an outlay of ten days' cost of the war. By the time the war is over the nations involved will have spent more than would abolish poverty and place humanity permanently above want.

It was stated at the Bible Society's an-

nual meeting in London a few days ago that 300,000 copies of a German version of the Bible had been distributed in Germany since the war commenced. No wonder they are putting up such a stiff fight. There is no war book like the Old Testament.

We depend upon you to increase the number of our subscribers.

News of the sinking of the dreadnought Audacious, has reached the "Sydney Morning Herald" nearly six months after the event happened. The "International" published the news with comments on Jan. 2 last. So far as we know it was the only Australian paper that ventured to mention the disaster.

Prime Minister Asquith stated in the British House of Commons recently that the position of the Duke of Cumberland and the Duke of Albany, who are at present serving in the German Army, will be considered after the conclusion of the war. Both royal parasites draw sums from the British Exchequer, and it would never do to stop them from doing so too suddenly if at all.

Wellington (New Zealand) Waterside Workers' Union has passed a resolution insisting on equal treatment for all workers, irrespective of their nationality. Members protested against unionism being blacklisted because of their place of birth. Compare this with the attitude of Sydney and Melbourne wharfies.

The British Government has despatched a mission to the Pope. The great Catholic organisation, of which the Pope is the head, has still some say in the affairs of government.

There was a time when our ancestors did not use parliaments. They used a club and direct action. In the present war the diplomats did not let the people decide whether they would make war or not. They simply hunked back to the club. Had the matter been put before the parliaments of Europe there would have been no war. Had the people been asked to vote as to whether they would resort to the club or not, there can be little doubt as to which way the issue would have been decided.

N.S. Wales Attorney-General told a meeting of Master Bakers on Saturday, March 13 that he intended to nationalise the whole of the baking industry of the State. A start will be made with a small area round the present State Bakery, and if successful, the scheme will be extended. Mr. Hall contended that the State would be able to supply bread at 1d. a 2lb. loaf cheaper than was at present being charged. The scheme ought to be a rattling success provided the Labor Party can borrow enough money in Europe to keep it going.

Senator Pearce is vigorously denying that the soldiers returning from Egypt are many of them suffering from syphilis. The Minister for Defence is doing his best, but he is up against some hard facts that appear to be incontrovertible. In the last issue of the "Medical Journal," Lieut.-Colonel John B. Nash, M.D., M.S., says: "Another warning wire has come from Cairo, telling of the large number of cases and the virulence of the venereal disease." A leading article in the same journal states: "A number of our men, who volunteered to fight for their country, are now returning, not wounded, but invalided by syphilis. . . . A member of the first contingent from Australia states that there were 200 of our soldiers under treatment for venereal disease at one time, and he makes the astounding statement that 10 per cent. of the whole force has been infected since leaving our shores." It adds: "In regard to the men returning invalided with syphilis little danger exists. The military authorities have arranged that no soldier will be allowed to land before he has been examined with care." The revelations of the "Medical Journal" should be instructive reading for all patriotic mothers who sent their boys to the front with a "God Bless You."



## The International Socialist

Journal of Revolutionary Socialism and Industrial Unionism.

Owned and controlled by the International Socialists.

Subscription: Australia, 4s per year, 1s per quarter. Postage added to other countries.

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The number on the wrapper of your paper is the number at which your subscription expires. Renew before that number is reached.

Thou art a man. God is no more.  
Thine own humanity learn to adore.  
—WILLIAM BLAKE.

## The Free Speech Fight.

As predicted in a late issue, a general attack is now being made on freedom of speech by the reactionary forces of the different Australian States. A peculiar feature of this attack is that in N. S. Wales, where we have a Labor Government, and where the Labor Party prides itself upon its democracy, the most stringent and autocratic measures are being adopted to destroy rights that were hardly won in days gone by and which have been enjoyed for years—with, of course, periodic attacks by the police.

There is probably more underneath the present attack than appears on the surface. More men are required for the war, but the war, though popular with the Salvation Army and other religious bodies, is not popular with Socialist speakers, and the latter have been at no pains to hide the fact. The result is that while the Army and other bodies have not been interfered with, the Socialists have been rigorously prosecuted.

In the police courts the cases against Socialists have been conducted in a manner which shows which way the wind is blowing. Magistrates have decided contrary to the evidence, the police have been impudently confident, and have been allowed to assume absolute control of the courts. They have become the accusers, the prosecutors, and the furbishers of the evidence and have turned the lower courts into places in which ignorance, perjury, and trickery triumph and have unlimited sway.

This, we believe, is only the prelude to further inroads upon our freedom. The military faction is doubtless prompting the State authorities who are instructing the police and the courts. If success attends the attack upon street speakers, it will probably be followed up with an attack on all anti-militarist papers. Already in Melbourne the Argus, seemingly inspired, is calling for action to be taken against Melbourne Socialists for publishing anti-war articles, and in the absence of protests, which papers like the Argus will see are not published, the Censor is likely to renew the peculiar methods of a few weeks ago with embellishments and extensions.

In Britain, recent arrivals inform us, there has been a great curtailment of free speech at the instance of the military authorities, and the methods adopted there are almost certain to be copied here.

On Saturday night last, a meeting in Liverpool Street, Sydney, was broken up by a force of police who adopted a threatening attitude towards the crowd, pushing and insulting men and women of the working class, evidently intent on provoking a breach of the peace and a free fight in which they might be excused for using their batons. The police have never acted like this before so we may feel sure that special instructions

have been issued from above to deal drastically with the hated Socialists.

At the time of writing, several Socialist comrades stand summoned to appear at the Central Police Court, Sydney, one has served a 14 days sentence, and one is in jail. Thus, in the court fighting, the police cannot claim much of a victory after an expenditure of scores of pounds. Meanwhile the third day of J. Quinton's examination is proceeding, and Alf. Rees's hearing commences. Several comrades out Newtown way have had their names taken, and within the next few days important developments may be expected.

Since the foregoing was written a readjustment of the Ministerial portfolios of the N. S. W. Government has been made. Wower Cann, under whose regulations the street speakers have been prosecuted and jailed, has been withdrawn from the Chief Secretaryship and Mr. George Black, a more level-headed and much better informed man, has taken his place. The new Minister has lost no time in voicing his opinion of Cann's Administration, for, referring to the question of street speaking, Mr. Black said:

"I propose to find out if it would not be possible for vacant allotments in the city to be used for this purpose, for instance, in George, Elizabeth, and other streets. These men who speak in the streets are men who have theories to expound, and should be permitted to do so there. I do not think there would be any interference with the public interests. There would be no interference with traffic, and I regard public speech as a great safety valve. Then, again, if you permit religious meetings to be held in the street, why not political or industrial meetings? At the same time, I would not be a party to permitting anyone at these meetings to make use of either indecent or blasphemous language or to promulgate theories destructive in their tendencies. I think this should not be permitted."

So Mr. Black reverses the attitude of his ignorant predecessor. We hope he will follow this up by stopping present proceedings, and further, will not leave to ignorant policemen and biased magistrates like Mr. Barnett the wide power of defining what is "blasphemy" or "indecent" language.

## Franz Mehring.

Franz Mehring, a prominent German Socialist, writes:—

For a member of the German Social Democratic Party it is a hard task to write at the present moment about the solidarity of the international working-class movement. It would be hypocrisy to deny that the majority of our Parliamentary group has struck this solidarity, not its only wound perhaps, but still the first and deepest, and one cannot get rid of this fact by the silly saying that the International is no effective tool in times of war, but essentially an instrument of peace. That means to say the essential of a sword is not the blade but the handle.

But the unfavorable light in which the German Social Democratic Party appears to its brother parties of other countries is deceptive nevertheless. What is going on today is similar to what occurred during the first years of the Exceptional Law, when, as now, the leaders lost their heads, but the rank and file soon gathered together, with the watchword: "With the leaders if they lead, without the leaders if they remain inactive, in spite of the leaders if they resist." Already this spirit ferments powerfully in all the great party centres of Germany—in Berlin, Hamburg, Leipzig, Stuttgart—and the day is not far distant when a return to peace and to the unshaken principles of the International will be demanded by the German working class, not merely in empty phrases, but with the venement force of a will steeled by the rights of half a century.

With hearty fraternal greetings.

FRANZ MEHRING,

Berlin—Steglitz.

## Clara Zetkin.

Clara Zetkin, editor of the German Socialist Woman's Paper, writes:—

In spite of this most terrible and criminal war in which the peoples of almost all European countries are murdering each other and destroying the work of centuries, in spite of the lies and calumnies by which the so called patriotic papers in each of the belligerent nations are abusing their adversaries, I feel I can only address you as "dear comrades and friends," and in doing so I am not uttering a phrase of cold, hypocritical convention but expressing the very truest feeling of international brotherhood which unites all who, even amidst deceitful national battle cries, have not forgotten that the working classes of all nations have one common country, great and sublime, in Socialism. And with the consciousness of this brotherhood is mixed a deep and hearty feeling of gratitude for the undaunted strength, courage and fidelity with which the British Independent Labor Party has

not only professed its Socialist faith, but remained true in action to the principles of International Socialism. This steadfast attitude which knows no doubt, compromise or failure, will be a treasure of invaluable worth to the future of Socialist Internationalism and to the emancipation of the working class of the whole world. The events on the battlefield and in the lands devastated by war renew every day the appreciation of this magnificent stand in the minds of Socialists of all countries.

The present war, formidable though natural offspring of Capitalist Imperialism, is the most gigantic expression yet given of the fierce competition inseparable from Capitalist production. It reveals this competition naked in all its ugliness. The soft, glittering, artificially-embroidered veils of Christian doctrine, moral principle and cultural progress are torn asunder; the full untempered barbarism of the Capitalist order stalks across the horrid scene of war and ravages the minds of the nations.

In some of the belligerent countries not only have the laboring masses fallen an easy prey to the diplomatic and governmental legends of the innocent lamb rushed upon by the malicious lion; but even the Socialist vanguard has succumbed to these lies. Some Socialists have not shrunk from voting in favor of the war credits, accepting thus in fact—in spite of all verbal declarations against war in theory—the moral responsibility for this Imperialistic slaughtering of peoples, and engaging popular goodwill for this crime. Workers of Austria and Germany, on the one side, workers of France, Britain, Belgium, and Russia on the other, wound and kill each other with the assent of some of the Socialist parties. Socialists have sacrificed the ideal of the International brotherhood of the workers of the world on the altar of the Capitalist profits of their own countries.

The Independent Labor Party has not tarnished the purity of its Socialist banner in compromising itself in the slightest degree. It regards Russian Tsarism, German Militarism, and Jingoism as equally menacing, and judges the only great task of Labor people in all countries to be to unite internationally in order to fight international Capitalism. Appreciating at their true value the tales of blue, white, orange, and other coloured books of Governments, who are the advocates and servants of the possessing classes in all countries alike, the Independent Labor Party has boldly put forward Socialism in opposition to Imperialism. The noble struggle which it is making in this moment of threatening and peril, will remain an immortal glory in the history of International Socialism. The I.L.P., stands in rank and file, with the heroic Social Democratic Party in the Russian Duma, which, fighting Tsarism and Capitalism at the same time, has refused to vote funds for the war; with the one Socialist in the Serbian Skuptschina who proudly voted "No!" Later, in the German Reichstag Karl Liebknecht has joined them, courageously obeying the god of his Socialist conviction rather than the Party's decision. Certainly, alas, Liebknecht is only one of 111 Socialist members of the German Parliament, but thousands and thousands of German workers—men and women—applaud his action and thank him for renewing the glorious tradition of the Party during the war of 1870 and 1871.

Moved by the same Socialist feelings, thousands upon thousands in Germany, as in other countries, stretch out their hands towards you, dear friends and comrades in Great Britain, saying from the depth of their hearts: "We thank you, we stand with you, as you stand with us, against Imperialism and for Socialism. You have preserved the honor of the International, your attitude is a lofty example of faith and strength in the present, a hope and warrant for the future." The second International of Socialists and workers of all countries has been the first and noblest victim on the bloody harvest-fields of Imperialism, slain with the assent of some Socialist Parties. Yet the International, solidarity and brotherhood of the workers cannot be killed. It lives as long as Capitalist exploitation and bondage is the fate of the workers of all nations. When, over ruins and ashes, the third International shall rise, the glorious attitude of the I.L.P., will shine a guiding star.

CLARA ZETKIN.

Kitchener wants 80,000 more men, and Senator Pearce has been reckoning up the number of trainees available. According to the Minister for Defence there are 58,000 ready and 250,000 training. The fact that the military authorities are thus counting and squinting at the boys betokens a probable new development in the direction of compulsory service abroad. Kitchener wants men, and Pearce, as is well-known, is in favor of supplying them. The only thing that stands in the way is a "defect" in the Defence Act which does not give the Minister of Defence the necessary power. A little thing like that is not likely to permanently prevent a Labor Government from giving effect to its jingoistic proclivities.

## The Woman Question.

By J. L.

With mingled feelings I have just heard of a woman in destitute circumstances who went to seek charity and was passed from door to door. Think what her sufferings must have been as she got refusal after refusal, and then ask yourself the question, what forces many women to live a life of shame? It is not laziness, but the cursed system of Capitalism under which we are forced to live. Such a system is destructive of humanity, and society will certainly break down if women have to live very much longer under this system of private ownership of industry. Under this system women can neither live well, nor give birth to strong generations to follow. Sister wage-workers, if you have not looked into this question of Socialism until now, do not think it is too late. In the hearts of the toiling masses there is always burning some desire for freedom and equality, that feeling should awaken you to activity when one of your class, a woman wage worker like yourself, shows you our position and pleads to be understood. Come join us in this work. To be understood is all we wish. The consequences will be great, do not despise Socialism because your friends do, or because it has been misrepresented to you, but rather read, study, and think, and be able to teach it to your children, and to prove it to anybody who will tell you it is a vision, a dream. Prove that it will come to be a reality. I noted an advertisement in a daily paper "wanted a cheap room in sight of a green tree." Dear reader, what outlook have you got from your room window. Bricks and mortar, and dirty brick yards—the usual outlook of the masses. We feel with sickening disgust at times, when we ponder how our class as a body, mind and mutilates itself by nonchalance and apathy. Now is the time for them to open their eyes to the fact of their position through their own indifference, and try and understand that the working-class never did and never can get anything unless it shows some signs of solidarity and cohesion. To-day, thanks to Socialism, it is becoming quite a common thing to meet a worker possessing the knowledge enabling him or her to see that a gold mine would not be worth a tinker's cuss, unless muscle and brawn were in attendance to dig up the wealth lying therein. The worker generally does not bother his stunted brain much over questions of political economy, but it is now beginning to dawn upon him that at the door of Capitalism can be laid a bulky bundle of ignominious failures. Some people like to speculate on the Socialist Republic, and wish to know if women are to work side by side with men, or will she stay at home and do work there only. That question will take care of itself, and future generations will settle it without the least regard to what we might have to say about it. One thing is certain, woman will be as economically free as man. She is part of society, and society will own the economical powers collectively. The woman question is not a question by itself, it is a part of the great Social Problem, and despite the boasts of Capitalist Christianity, the facts show that under Capitalism, women especially of the working class, are degraded and dwarfed physically and mentally, while the word "Home" is but a mockery.

We offer the gospel of true scientific Socialism to our sisters in the hope they may open their eyes and recognise their only true salvation, the true goal of their sex as it is the goal of their whole class.

I often hear the mothers of to-day sing patriotic songs to their babes, so thought as I was writing, I would send this along, as some of them may learn it and it may also help them to think:

Hush-a-bye baby on the tree top,  
When you grow up you shall work in a shop,  
And when you get married your wife shall work too,  
That the rich may grow richer with nothing to do.

Hush-a-bye baby on the tree top,  
When unemployed your wages will stop,  
And when grown old your wage will stop too,  
That the rich may grow richer with nothing to do.

We hush-a-bye babies, hear what you say,  
Hush-a-bye babies, we are not made that way.

We are calling new music for the industrial hop.  
Wealth without work must shut up its shop.

### MADE IN GERMANY.

The Allies have arranged that the cruiser Askold shall carry the Russian flag at the head of the allied squadron through the Dardanelles. Well what about it? The Askold was "made in Germany"—built at the Krupp Germania yard in Kiel, and her use against Germany is a splendid advertisement for the International Armament Trust, and the holy spirit of profit which dwells among nations.

D. H.



# Thompson's Message and His Appeal.

In this appeal for assistance from the manhood of my native land, I refuse to believe that the general public know the facts of the case; I refuse to believe that the general public would not rain a great storm of indignation about the heads of those who are directly responsible for my incarceration, unjustly and illegally, in this, the Goodna Madhouse, if they once knew the facts at all. These facts are suppressed, owing mainly to the greatest factor—viz., that if once the facts of my "attempted judicial murder" (now going on) that they, the general public, would endorse my actions.

However, I demand justice and my liberty, and as a means to obtain them, also to enlighten the general public, I have put in these few verses—as a short recitation. The whole of the facts, leaving the public to judge for themselves. I trust my countrymen and women will not allow this murder to go on—for that's what it is—once they know for themselves the true causes of my imprisonment.

Yours, etc.,

G. C. Thompson.

No stone is ever heard how, in Brisbane, the

Because the churches were empty, and the

Wonders told no one to preach

To about the glories of Heaven; of its streets

That are covered with gold.

Of the hell and its fire, and a stone, of the

And the devil and his tormenters.

Why the Socialist Party intended to fight and

And in spirit of the old, and the power of their

So on Sunday, September the twenty-eighth, at

seven o'clock at night.

We comrades arrived at the same old spot for the

usual free speech fight.

I had bought a chain of tempered steel, and as

hard as a south sea made it.

And was ready to see the day when the police-

men tried to break it.

As on every previous attempt to speak, a com-

rade of ours was arrested.

But on this occasion we had our say and Cahill's

name was tested.

"Was at the corner of Queen and Edward streets

where we started the day's rolling.

The police had their batons up their sleeves, and

the church bells were loudly tolling.

And over a hundred men waited there to break

in our meeting to force.

While others, at arms at the barracks, awaited

orders to move.

The same as they did on "Black Friday," when

they rode out, the workers, to lag.

And trampled the women and children down on

that historic man-lifting day.

It was Jackson and I that matured the plan, and

I treated it all like a joke.

I was sure of half-a-hundred's clippings, at least,

before my chain could be broken.

We were there to defy the Commissioner of Police,

and "hunger-strike" if convicted.

And so ridicule that capitalist's tool who freedom

of speech and of restricted.

For why should a native of Queensland, be deprived

of his birthright, to speak,

And discuss the affairs of his country, are we

slaves to be yanked as sheep?

Is this the twentieth century of our civilisation

and science,

Of humanity, truth and our brotherhood, or of

crocodile defiance?

Is this the fight for existence a keen as it was

in the days of old,

When living humans were marketed or exchanged

for a traitor's gold?

Are we human, marching backward, have reached

our allotted span?

Has the era of human endeavor ceased? Are we

nearing the end of man?

Not so, for 'tis writ that our race will arise to a

grandeur height and glory.

And the capitalist system's history be the theme

of a well known story.

Of the days when our masters golden hoards

were gained by exploiting us toilers;

When our homes and our lives, our children and

lives, were owned by the base despoilers.

I spoke to the crowd assembled, of the workers

and their batons, so heavy and metal-knocked.

Of the hill, the bayonet, the bludgeon, of the

Maxim's leaden hail.

Of the capitalist Courts and Judges, of the Social-

ists gagged in jail.

Why the toilers are held in subjection by a

rolling master class.

Through the church and its vile anaesthetics.

And the Wonders' hell-fire

I spoke of the great awakening. I told of our

great class war.

Of our glorious fight for freedom, now raging

on every shore.

I appealed to the Queensland workers to assist

in the free speech fight.

And to work for "one big union," and march

for the goal in sight.

Would they study the social system, until Social-

ism was known.

With the working class united and capitalism

overthrown.

Could they not hear the widows crying, could

they not hear the orphans wail,

Would they speak as they ne'er had spoken, for

our unity shall prevail.

I told how the toilers' daughters swell the ranks

of the prostitutes,

Of the factory slaves in the sweaters hell, of the

toilers who live as brutes,

I spoke of the mining burglars, of the land

and the stock-jobbing sharks—

Just then the policeman had broken my chain

and silenced my earnest remarks.

Next morn to the Magistrate's Court I was

brought; I was placed in the prisoner's dock,

From whence some notable truths I explained,

and the capitalist Judge got a shock.

When I said, "Sir, your Court will not Justice

dispense, and nothing its honor retrieves

It is here to protect the schemer and fraud, the

legalised liars and thieves,

I said not for you nor your Court, and your law,"

snapped my fingers in derision,

And after some talk of what the law meant they

took me away to their prison.

And when once in goal, I then hunger-struck,

not a mouthful of food would I eat.

They bullied, then pleaded, then coaxed, be-

fore they would own they were beat.

My actions completely nonplussed them, and

they sent for the doctor to tell,

Who said, "He is mad, lock him up safe and

sound in number two murder's cell."

And then to the mad-house they brought me,

at last, a little bit hungry and pale.

Having eaten no food for three weeks or more,

now friend, that's the end of my tale.

Now to those who give heed to this message,

and for me, it is a message of fate.

Help my comrades at once to release me, do it

now, friend, before it's too late.

These capitalists' tools with their doctors and

the rest of the blood-thirsty crew,

In saving their friends from exposure, an inhu-

man and have in view.

By drugs and semi-starvation they will surely

reason-destroy.

For I am one of the Socialist movement, an "I'm

fighting for freedom and joy

There's a Socialist Hall in South Brisbane, near

where Russell and Stanley streets meet.

If you go once or twice to their meetings, I am

sure you will think it a treat.

My comrades will there give you something to

read, containing the right sort of dope.

Which is food for the mind of the workers, and

which bids every wage slave to hope

For the sun making over the horizon, seen dim

in the grey light of dawn

When our Socialist efforts have fruited, and the

grandest republic is born.

Well, comrades, I've been active, in the front

ranks I always have stood.

Preaching of Socialism for own and humanity's

good;

Now, I am down and outed, condemned as a

madman, and sick,

Will you stand by the Socialists fighting, will

you be my comrade to stick?

Come to see me at Goodna Asylum, the hours

are from ten until four,

Sundays included, with week days, and I think

I can tell you some more.

I have promised I'll never surrender, my courage

it never will lag.

When I die, then I die as the fighter shot away

from beneath the red flag.

May my corpse be a bridge o'er the river by

which other comrades may cross,

To the land of our splendid ideal, where worth

is not reckoned by dross.

For years, victimised and boycotted, robbed of

my home, of my children and wife,

That's the message of George Campbell Thompson,

and perhaps it may cost me my life.

Yours, G. C. T.

As we go to press Alf. Rees is occupying

the defendant's stand at the capitalist law-

shop, the Sydney Central.

Rees is putting up a sterling fight and is

showing the police that two can play at the

legal bulworn game.

The magistrate in Rees's case is trying the

bluffing game usually worked on the inex-

perienced but Rees had experience in the

Brisbane Free Speech Fight, and like Quinton,

is not to be hustled.

Mr. Magistrate Smithers protests against

Rees wasting the time of the court with end-

less questions, but he should blame the police

and the masters for taking such cases in-

to court. If he would rather be at his club,

or at some other popular resort he should

dismiss such cases and refuse to allow the

police to discriminate between Salvationists

and Socialists.

Quinton's case, after four day's fighting,

stands adjourned for a week. Q has a good

deal of "evidence"—tons of it—to bring be-

fore the court yet despite the fact that this

is the third week of the "trial."

A sample of Barnett's Justice:

To Wilson: "If you continue such ques-

tions I may warn you that it will make a

considerable difference in your sentence."

He had already declared Wilson guilty,

though the case was only part heard, and

was illegally intimidating and threatening

him for endeavoring to bring evidence be-

fore the court.

Look out for the next issue of the Inter-

national. Wilson will give some particulars

regarding the conduct of King George's

Long Bay Hotel. He is demanding an in-

quiry into the brutality of the warders.

## Free Speech

### The Fight at the Sydney Central.

#### QUINTON'S CASE.

Over the portal to the right of the Central Police Court entrance is a figure-head of a woman representing Justice. She is blindfolded. The usual "scales" are missing. Our modern magisterial dispensers of capitalist justice are not blindfolded, but all the same they suffer from blindness, at least in one eye. They are also deaf in one ear. The blind eye they turn on all police illegalities and the deaf ear is turned toward all demands made by our comrades for a square deal. Regarding the Scales of Justice, the magistrates have made a fine art of the dodge practised by the suburban grocer. They give short measure and deceive the customers by pressing down the scale with their finger. The loss is always on the side of the customer or the poor defendant. We are not grumbling at this, because we recognise the magistracy to be but the spawn of a vile and corrupt system. However, it is well to emphasise the facts for the edification of those who possess a child-like faith and belief in the integrity and honesty of present-day courts. Our comrades, being aware of the contemptible and mean tricks practised in police courts, prepared themselves to meet cunning with cunning and guile with guile. Comrade Quinton, having had considerable experience in Brisbane, was well able to hold his own, and incidentally demonstrate the utter absurdity of police court procedure. It was unfortunate that Quinton was not brought before the humptious and blustering Beak Barnett. This individual certainly needs dragging down from the high perch on which he has placed himself. However, better luck next time.

Magistrate Paton heard Quinton's case, which spread over several days. The prosecution called three witnesses—all policemen, by the way.

They each told a stereotyped tale, but when cross-examined and taken off the beaten track they were bogged. To many working plugs assembled at the back of the court the floundering of their old enemies the police was highly amusing. The police themselves were chagrined. Nothing hurts them more than to be compelled to demonstrate their own assiniuity.

Quinton in his cross-examination made the police witnesses contradict one another and showed clearly that their bump of observation wasn't very much developed. In answer to the question "What was I talking about" the first ass, I mean witness, said: "You were talking about Socialism." The second witness replied that he was sure Quinton wasn't talking about Socialism, but that he was demanding the right of free speech.

Ananias the third declared on his solemn oath that the defendant was talking to some I.W.W. men about industrial unionism.

Q. asked witness No. 2 if he thought that some day he would become a Socialist. The policeman indignantly replied "Certainly not," whereat Q. innocently expressed agreement considering what an ass he'd made of himself in the box. Questioned as to the platform used on the night in question:

No. 1 said he was certain it wasn't a box, but a kind of raised stool.

No. 2 was convinced that it was a box. He went further and particularised, saying it was a "Tooth's box," with compartments to put bottles in.

No. 3 was sure the platform wasn't a stool but not quite so certain as to its being a box.

Questioned as to Quinton's ability as a speaker, one had it that he was "not up to much"; another admitted that he was "fairly good, with a splendid flow of language," and the third stated that he was "a real good speaker."

As to the particular spot on which the "horrible crime" was committed, the police witnesses could not agree. However, they had a conference, apparently, and on the second day the magistrate informed Quinton that the prosecution had decided to confine the charge to having "inconvenienced the public at a place situated on the south side of Park-street near Pitt-street." Our comrade wouldn't agree to this, whereat Paton irritably said, "Alright, have it your own way."

Jackson was first witness for the defence, and in answer to a question re his occupation replied, "I am sometimes a wage-slave, and at other times a bourgeois." Called upon to explain, Jackson said, "Occasionally I work for wages, and when not doing that I live parasitically, by bleeding the working class." The magistrate remarked feelingly: "We all do that sometimes." Jackson roused the ire of the prosecutor, who began to bully the witness. On Quinton protesting, the bully denied that he was bullying, which brought forth the remark that he had

acted in such a manner for so long that he didn't know when he was doing it.

Jackson gave the lie to most of the police evidence. After Com. Mrs. Slade had corroborated the court adjourned until the following Monday. The police desired to hear the case next day, but Q. told the magistrate that he was getting married on Wednesday, and he pleaded for an adjournment until the event was consummated. He even told the magistrate that the best thing he could do was to dismiss the case altogether. The old guy wasn't having any.

#### THE CASE AGAINST M. RUDOLPH.

On Wednesday, March 10, M. Rudolph was charged at the Central Hall of Justice. Mr. Barnett was on the throne, and the police bullies and court flunkies were particularly brusque and domineering towards witnesses and others whose misfortunes or business drew them to this capitalist holy of holies.

The court flunkies and bullies take their cue from the presiding beak. If that worthy snubs and bullies an accused person, he is snubbed and bullied by all the understrappers. Most magistrates officiating at the Central are insufferable snobs, but Barnett is not only snobbish. He is unfair and ignorant. To Barristers, Solicitors and Journalists he is cringing, but to those whom he has under the whip he is unfairness and illegality personified.

In Rudolph's case, as in Wilson's, Barnett constantly interfered to save the police and hamper Rudolph. He seemed to proceed on the assumption that an accused person, if a Socialist, must be guilty, must be prevented from conducting his own case, and must be threatened every few minutes for asking questions and cross-examining the police.

Rudolph was charged with holding a meeting and attracting a crowd to the inconvenience of the public. He was prosecuted by the police, who called themselves as witnesses, and gave evidence in support of their own charges. Not a single independent witness was called to prove inconvenience, and when Rudolph called his witnesses to prove that no such inconvenience was caused, Mr. Barnett practically closed their mouths and refused to hear them.

In Rudolph's case there might just as well have been no magistrate on



scene in Park-street from his point of view, when the magistrate again called him to attention.

"You are not to make these long speeches," he said, "or you'll get into trouble yourself presently."

Witness proceeded to argue in favor of an explanation.

Magistrate: "Sit down."

The witness left the witness-box and sat down in court.

Magistrate (to defendant): "Have you anything further?"

"I want that witness back in the witness-box again."

Magistrate: "I'll not allow him there while he continues to make those remarks."

Defendant: "But I want him called again."

Magistrate: "Next case, please."

The defendant then sat down to await his case being called on again.

Our contemporary did not follow the matter further. But Rudolph had his way and Barnett, despite his bluff, had to obey the rules of his own Court and recall Quinton.

At this stage Rudolph was manifestly ill and practically unable to go much further. He was unable to address the court and review the evidence and the magistrate's conduct of the case. The bench at last had the victim at his mercy and proceeded to "deal it out" to him.

In sentencing Rudolph, Mr. Barnett went outside the evidence to blacken his victim and prejudice him in the eyes of the public. He was one who endeavored to deter people from joining the army, he said.

Sub-Inspector Bannan: "We have had numerous complaints from the public to that effect."

Mr. Barnett: "That is to say, the tenor of the remarks were seditious."

Sub-Inspector Bannan: "That is so."

Mr. Barnett: "Is any officer present who heard the remarks?"

Sub-Inspector Bannan: "No, and people who made complaints have not come forward to substantiate them."

Mr. Barnett: "At a time like this, when the British Empire is at war, it is almost unbelievable that the streets of a British community can be used for the purpose of preaching sedition."

The public should note that this was all beside the question, and was introduced to cover the illegal way in which the magistrate had conducted the hearing. There was no evidence of sedition tendered, and unless the police had such evidence, neither they nor the magistrate had any right to mention it.

The people, who, as Sub-Inspector Bannan asserted, had complained but refrained from coming forward, may only exist in the disordered imagination of an unscrupulous police officer.

The receipt of a copy of this paper is an invitation to become a subscriber.

The Liberal Government of New Zealand threatens to start State Bakeries in four principal centres if the Master Bakers continue to advance the price of bread. If the Government carries out its threat, we shall no doubt have the mugs of New Zealand swearing by Liberalism and cheap bread, while in N.S. Wales the Mug family will bless Laborism for doing the same thing.

"The hospital ship Kyarra arrived at Melbourne from Egypt on Thursday, Mar. 11, with 204 troops aboard. One hundred and thirty-one were returned for disciplinary reasons and 173 for medical causes."—A press item. In common parlance 131 revolted against the conditions, and 173 had received what Byron called "a little subscription from the ladies."

A Laborite exchange says: "Two Chinese journalists, who have been writing revolutionary articles in a Sydney Chinese paper, are to be deported." By whom are they being deported? Surely a "Labor Government" wouldn't do such a thing!

A recent weekly news letter of the American Federation of Labor gave wide circulation to the action taken by the Baptist ministers of Minnesota, who adopted a minimum wage scale of £140 a year for unmarried, and £180 a year for married ministers. The old gospel is no longer proof against the wages system.

The colored gent, discovered in the woodpile. Mr. Justice Powers (examining a witness): "The wholesale price of groceries has decreased while the retail price has increased?"

Witness: "Yes."

Mr. Justice Powers: "That looks a little peculiar. It looks as if there was a middle man somewhere."

When you have read this paper hand it to a friend.

## A.S.P. News & Notes.

### AUSTRALASIAN SOCIALIST PARTY.

Objective.—The social ownership with Democratic control of the means of Production, Distribution and Exchange.

Headquarters: 115 Goulburn St., Sydney.

LUKE JONES.

General Secretary.

### BRISBANE.

Friday night meeting was very orderly, but Saturday was somewhat disturbed by a few drunks, who were religious and "patriotic." They, however, started the ball rolling, and we could not get a say in at all at 9.45, when the crowd was the largest we have had at our meeting since the "Free Speech" fight.

On Saturday night Comrade Henry gave a lecture on the A.W.U. and the sugar strike of New South Wales in 1914. The strike at Broadwater was caused by the conditions under which the men had to live; some of them were very tolerant and did not want to strike. The Reps. Hall and Martins at first tried all they could to prevent a strike, but on the vote being taken, they were in favour of going on strike, which lasted a fortnight, and the general opinion is that the men were sold by the A.W.U. Hall did his best to stop the revolutionists from agitation, because they would revolutionise the camp and thus the Labour party would not get support from them. The A.W.U., which is a big stay of the Labour party in N.S.W. were forcing the Labour Daily Levy on those who belonged to the union or bought tickets, and on this levy receipt were these words: "A continent to win and a labour daily to win it with." The men went back to wait for the Wages Board, and on receiving such the men are 10s. a week worse off than they were before.

Considerable discussion arose, and the meeting adjourned, after an interesting evening was spent.

Will all comrades in Queensland please correspond with the Brisbane Branch, Box 10, South Brisbane, in order to keep the addresses up to date.

Yours for the day.

Ern. Fredlein.

### MELBOURNE.

February closed with a series of minor calamities that temporarily arrested our propaganda. The call of the boss to break the Sabbath had to be obeyed by comrade Jeffries. This combined with the illness of the writer, made our Sunday afternoon Yarra Bank meeting impossible. But Comrade Jeffries rose to the occasion by filling the bill in place of J. Barnes on Sunday evening, the latter being unable to be present on account of family trouble. We are short of speakers at present, which is mainly due to the apathy of some of our members, who have both ability and knowledge, but are either deficient in confidence, or too lethargic in spirit to take the stump and help along the movement. A Russian concert on March 1st was a big success, due to the efforts mainly of Comrades Kalinauchkas, Wesberg, Spiers, Szpanski, the hall being crowded with all nationalities, things going with vigor and vim from start to finish.

C. W. Green's lecture on Sunday, Mar. 7th, was good, being attentively followed for an hour and a half by an audience, who left considerably enlightened. A fine spirit for the welfare of the party was shown in a practical manner at the general meeting on March 8th, when over £10 was guaranteed towards the fund for the dancing floor, the construction of which will make our revenue more secure, therefore our propaganda more effective. Comrades Petroff and Kalinauchkas merit the thanks of the party for their practical help to this fund. A motion of appreciation at the action of Comrades Quinton, Wilson and other comrades in going to jail for the welfare of the movement was passed. The action of the authorities in jailing N. Rancie and — Johnson of the Chicago I.W.W. for one month for selling literature on the Yarra Bank, is another sample of British liberty, alias British bunkum—the thing that the empty heads like to prattle about, but which few seem to enjoy.

Our hall has a bright appearance about its walls, the outcome of the efforts of Comrade Angelleska, a paint brush and sundry pots of paint. W. H. Turner is booked to speak for us on Sunday next on "Why the Workers Don't Go to Church." Whilst all those who are interested in drinking a mental draught of the essence of Revolution—a knowledge of economics and philosophy of Socialism, are requested to turn out in numbers, along with their friends on Tuesday evening, when an attempt will be made to start a speakers' class.

Yours for working-class freedom.

H. SPENCER WOOD.

Secretary.

### NEWTOWN.

Newtown Branch.—Rooms: 11 Eumundi St., Newtown. Propaganda meetings: Friday, 8 p.m.; Johnston-St., Leichhardt. Saturday and Sunday evenings, Newtown Bridge.

### PROPAGANDA FIXTURES.

(Meetings Commence 7.30 p.m.)

Friday night: Johnston-St., Leichhardt.

Chair: W. Page, Speakers: C. Jackson, P. O'Connell.

Auburn meeting: J. Roche.

Saturday night: Newtown Bridge.

Chair: F. Hancock, Speakers: J. Brown, J. Roche, J. Kilburn.

Sunday night: Newtown Bridge.

Chair: C. Jackson, Speakers: P. O'Connell, Mrs. Paul, J. Kilburn.

At the meeting held at Newtown Bridge held on Saturday night, three comrades had their names taken by the Police. Twenty yards away a Christ-deluded imbecile held a meeting and was not interfered with.

The Branch business meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 23. The business is IMPORTANT.

Ray Everitt, Secy.

### SYDNEY BRANCH.

Our past weeks' propaganda progress was marked by "Abrutis Barnett" sending along to "Long Bay Home" for 14 days our comrade "M. Rudolph." The latter was physically unfit to effectively fight his case. Barnett took every advantage of this, although in spite of himself, was compelled to recall a witness.

Jock Wilson arrived from "Gaoi" last Saturday. His treatment at the Penitentiary was damnable. All comrades should look out for a published statement of Jock's experiences.

Sunday's Domain meeting was an emphatic protest against the restriction of Free Speech and the brutal treatment in Gaoi.

On Sunday night at the Hall, Mrs. Macdonald very ably dealt in an instructive and interesting manner with Popular Superstitions. Everybody appeared to enjoy this address.

At Market-street the Police renewed activities. Not content with summonses nowadays, we found them arresting "Rees" on Sunday on a fictitious charge. The John's will have a surprise in the future. Look out!

### Paris Commune Anniversary.

The anniversary of the above will be held on Sunday, March 21st., at the Hall. The Branch asked Comrade L. Jones to give an address on this subject. We can expect a very interesting address as a consequence.

Don't forget the Social and Dance on Friday, March 26th. Tickets 6d. each.

Don't forget RED WEEK. Do your little bit to make it a success.

J. Q., Secy.

### CENTRAL EXECUTIVE.

All delegates please note that the next meeting will be held on Saturday, March 20th., in the Party Hall, 369 Pitt-St., at 2.30.

LUKE JONES, Gen. Sec.

### INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST CLUB.

#### Paris Commune 1871.

A Memorial of the above will be held at the International Socialist Club Rooms, on Friday, March 19th. 7.30 p.m.

All welcome.

H. Dierks, Secy.

At Newtown Bridge, on Saturday night last, four or five comrades had their names taken. Ray Everitt, Secretary of Newtown Branch, was informed by a police officer that the police were not sure whether anything was going to be done, but he was to call on Tuesday at the Station to learn more; meantime they were waiting "Minister's instructions." Our congratulations are due to Mrs. Lorrimer for her stand.

At Bathurst-street on same night the police once again lost their heads, going so far as to push the public about. A young irresponsible constable threatened "Mandino" with arrest, should he say the same thing twice. Quinton's name and address was taken from the stump. All comrades who don't desire to have their names taken and eventually see the inside of Long Bay Penitentiary, should go over to Europe and be killed.

Such does the "God of Battles" decree. The Lord be praised.

"To live straightforwardly by your own labor is to be at peace with the world. To live on the labor of others is not only to render your life false at home, but it is to enslave upon those around you, to invite resistance and hostility."—Edward Carpenter.

### Red Week.

FIRST WEEK IN MAY.

GET READY FOR IT.

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